

Friday, January 16, 2009

To: Representative Dave Kasten *desk #95*
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

EXHIBIT 1
DATE Feb 5, 09
HB 10

Subject: HB 2

Re: Do not waste of Citizens of Montana Tax dollars

Before approving the budget for State of Montana Government portion of HB 2, has this committee checked state government agencies organizational charts? I continually hear about wastefulness in Montana Government. In these economic times I feel it is the duty of the Finance and Audit Committees to make sure that every dollar being spent is on needed services for Montana's people. Since state agency payroll is a huge part of that budget is it not in the best interest of all Montana taxpayers that there is no wasteful spending on top level employee positions? Would not a review of all agency organizational charts be in order?

As an example the Department of Administration, (DOA), has one agency under it called Information Technology Services Division, (ITSD). This division has about 183.5 employees. It is only one of several smaller departments under DOA. Included in this 183.5 total, are one CIO, two Deputy CIO's, and 8 "Executive Officers" or "Officers". These 10 or 11 people make \$100,000 or more a year each. They in turn then manage the several "Bureau Chiefs" within ITSD, who in turn manage the actual supervisors and workers in their respective areas. The rest of the Department of Administration has only "Bureau Chiefs" for each division who answer directly to the administrator of DOA. If those 10 or 11 high paid positions were cut it could save the taxpayers over 2 million dollars this next biennium. The "Bureau Chiefs" would then answer directly to the DOA, administrator, like the rest of that agency. Just imagine if other agencies have this same needless top heaviness. How much money could you save the tax payers and voters by review this situation? When comparing other States in the surrounding area, these top level positions are not seen. I would think that if a State the size of Washington can get by without CIO's and Executive Officers, Montana can. Those positions would have to be cut, because in state government once you get a certain wage no matter what your job or title is you keep that wage. So if those 10 or 11 people were moved to let say a secretarial positions, they would still make a \$100,000 or more a year.

I find it appalling as a taxpayer that we need 10 or more state government, employees making \$100,000 a year or more, to manage 10 - 13 bureau chiefs make over \$70,000 a year, who in turn manage what, is left of the 183.5 people, something is not right. Some of these "Officers" only have 2 or 3 employees in their whole area of responsibility.

Look for waste this legislative session! Check the state government agencies organizational charts. Make them accountable for their agencies salary budgets, especially these high paid positions. Do not blindly approve, what little monies are available in these tough economic times, to wasteful spending.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizen of Montana